The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
October 20, 2000

FROM THE EDITOR

Power to the People, Right On!

Rodger Patience's reign of terror is over! Thanks to a relatively bloodless transfer of authority over this publication, the light of democracy and a free press now shines upon you, the reader of the *Natural News*.

While freedom has won the day here at the *Natural News* desk, preserving it requires constant vigilance. "But Mark," you may ask, "I'm only one person. How can *I* keep the light of truth burning brightly in the remotest corridors of the Museum?" The answer is involvement. The staff and volunteer newsletter, like sweet, sweet liberty itself, is a not a spectator sport, but rather a full-body contact sport where everyone plays. Therefore, I encourage you not only to contribute your news items every week, but also to offer any suggestions for improving this publication.

In addition to its role as clearinghouse of information about events and programs, honors and kudos, the *Natural News* must be a lively forum for all staff and volunteers. Future issues will feature new kinds of articles, cartoons, images, stories and eventually a redesigned appearance. In the meantime, please bear with me as I get a handle on putting this thing together every week.

In all seriousness and in deference to my predecessor, I wish to thank Rodger Patience for all of his hard work in bringing us the News these past two years. Now, as I assume the mantle of editor, I realize that Rodger has left behind some mighty big shoes to fill. He also left behind two mighty big sport jackets and a long pair of pants. So Rodger, if you're reading this, please come by the office and pick these up. Congratulations to you and the best of luck in your new role at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. As always, we'll keep your chair warm for you.

Mark Schmeltzer

FIELD NOTES

Week of October 23

Public/Campus Events

New Discoveries Lecture Series
• Dr. Irina Rodimtseva, Moscow's Imperial Treasures. Saturday, October 21, 2000, at 3:00 p.m.

New Discoveries Lecture Series
• Dr. David Wilcox, Celebrate the Past, Present and Future of Field Museum Anthropology. Sunday, October 22, 2000, at 4:00 p.m.

Kremlin Gold
• Exhibit Continues

Endurance
• Exhibit continues

Americanos
• Exhibit continues

Star Wars: The Magic of Myth
• Exhibit continues

The Natural News is published by the Human Resources Department.

The deadline for each week's issue is Wednesday at noon.

FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

New Occupational Health Clinic

The Human Resources Department is pleased to announce that the Museum will begin working with Concentra Medical Centers as of November 1, 2000. They will serve as our Occupational Health clinic, assisting us with care for staff and volunteers injured at work, as well as a variety of other services including flu shots (coming soon), hepatitis-B shots, and various health/safety training.

The decision to switch to Concentra Medical Centers was reached after careful consideration of other occupational clinics in the area. Concentra has become a leader in its industry and we are confident that they will provide us with outstanding service and quality of care.

We will provide informational sessions on the transition from MercyWorks to Concentra Medical Center in the coming weeks. Invitations with dates and times will be forwarded directly to staff members who work with our Occupational Health Clinic. Please feel free to contact **Bill Haggerty** at ext. 7278 or **Heather Friend** at ext. 7275 in he Human Resources Department with any concerns or questions.

Museum Gives Blood, Boosts Area Supply

As a result of the Blood Drive on September 21, 2000, 66 area patients have received much-needed blood. We were able to collect 22 units of blood. Because blood can be broken down into components, these units can help up to 66 local patients and provide a boost to the community blood supply.

Thank you to all of those who took the time to donate!

Update: Flu Vaccine Supply

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), influenza vaccine supplies that are expected to be distributed this flu season should be approximately equal to what was distributed last year, but a substantial amount of the vaccine will reach providers later than usual.

For more information about influenza disease and influenza vaccine, visit the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Symposium Success

The Department of Geology would like to announce the great success of the annual **A. Watson Armour III Annual Symposium**, entitled *Historical Patterns of Diversity: A Memorial Symposium Honoring the Work of J. John Sepkoski, Jr.*, which was held at the Field Museum on Saturday, October 7th. Just under 100 people attended the day-long symposium (**Pete Wagner** and **Scott Lidgard**, Geology, co-organizers), which represented a memorial for the late Jack Sepkoski (Research Associate, Geology, and Professor, University of Chicago). Sepkoski's work is prominent among biodiversity research programs, expanding both the breadth of data used for inferring patterns, and the variety and rigor of analytical techniques used to test diversity-related hypotheses. Sepkoski's untimely death last year cost evolutionary biology one of its major contributors to historical diversity studies.

The symposium produced an outstanding suite of scientific presentations. Two aspects were particularly striking. First, the level of innovative science was astonishing. Every presenter went to great lengths to frame their presentation in the rigorous quantitative or logical structure that was so much a hallmark of Jack Sepkoski's own work. This is quite remarkable when one considers the breadth of topics—evolutionary studies ranging from the ecology of fossil communities to cutting-edge classification using molecular genetics. The comments heard by the organizers suggested that this symposium captured the work of the highest caliber scientists working on macroevolution. Papers from the symposium are now being assembled for publication as a book (U. of Chicago Press) or scientific journal special edition (Paleobiology).

The organizers would like to thank **Elaine Zeiger** (Geology), **Karsten Lawson**, **Towanda Simmons** and **Mark Alvey** (Academic Affairs, VP Office), **Carlita Wilds** (Special Events), and **Flynn Jefferson** and **Mentee Teah** (Audio Visual) for all of their hard work behind the scenes—the symposium simply couldn't have happened without their contributions. We are also extremely grateful to the following departments for their help and assistance: **FP&O**, **Housekeeping**, **Protection Services**, **Visitor Services**, **Corner Bakery**, and last but certainly not least, **Ed Czerwin** and **Andy Medina** in the **Print Shop**. Thanks to all for helping us bring off another successful Armour Symposium.

New Biogeography Society Formed

Biogeography is the study of the distribution of plants and animals on earth, and of the reasons for the patterns of distribution that we see. While this subject is an essential component for many studies of ecology and evolution, and for application to problems in conservation, there is no national or international society for researchers who wish to exchange ideas, and no meetings where this is the primary focus. Since most of the researchers at the Field Museum are interested in biogeography, this is a particularly large stumbling-block for many of us.

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I attended a meeting during the first week of October that is intended to change all of this. Twenty-one people representing virtually all of the sub-disciplines of biogeography (plants and animals, historical and ecological, marine and terrestrial, etc.) were invited to a four-day workshop entitled *Foundations and Future of Biogeography* at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara, California, to lay plans for a new research society to be called the International Biogeography Society. In spite of some pretty strong and divergent perspectives on specific issues, we all agree to the need for international meetings to be held at least once every two years (the first probably in 2002), and to seek additional means of communication (probably a Web page, possibly a journal). We also laid plans for a book to be published by the University of Chicago Press that will include about 50 seminal papers on the development of biogeography from 1754 to 1980, which will be used as a supplement to current textbooks. For more details, give me a call at ext. 7747.

Submitted by **Larry Heaney**

LETTERS FROM FIELD FANS

September 18, 2000

Dear Sir,

Recently my husband and I attended the Stephen Jay Gould lecture. We enjoyed it immensely. We are seniors and I am handicapped and use a cane.

The concern and assistance we received from your staff, especially a young man named **Bill** and a volunteer named **Everett** was much appreciated.

My husband and I consider the Field Museum to be fortunate to have these gentlemen.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Charles Meyer

Illinois Humanities Council

September 30, 2000

Mr. John McCarter
President
The Field Museum
Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605-2496

Dear John,

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Illinois Humanities Council, we want to thank you for allowing us to have our Fall board meeting at the Field Museum. Your staff could not have been more helpful and delightful to work with. Alex greeted us in the morning. Kristina made the logistics seem effortless. Ariel provided us with just the right amount of context for the very special preview we enjoyed of the Shackleton exhibit. It is a fascinating story with more than one lesson to ponder-- later.

Suite 2020
203 North Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601.2417
312.422.5580

IHC Board and staff also had time during the day to spend in the museum and gift shops. We overheard many people planning to return.

Again, thank you very much for your hospitality and for your many contributions to the city's rich cultural life.

Sincerely

Kristina A. Valaitis
Executive Director

Elise Mackevich Salchli
Director of Fiscal and Office Operations

15th Scientific Meeting of the International Society of
HYPERTENSION
ISH 2000
Chicago
August 20–24, 2000

ISH 2000 Inc.
Organizing Committee

Allen W. Cowley, Jr.
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Co-Chair
Local Organizing Committee

Lewis Landsberg
Chicago, Illinois
Co-Chair
Local Organizing Committee

September 15, 2000

Ms. Susan Schoen
Special Event Coordinator
The Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605

Dear Susan:

On behalf of the International Society of Hypertension, I would like to sincerely thank you for all of your work in helping us to create a fabulous event at the Field Museum for the closing night gala. From start to finish, you were always there for us, giving guidance and support through our many changes and challenges. We envisioned this event on a much grander scale, but when registration numbers did not meet our expectations, we had to recreate the event. With your expertise and knowledge of what works best in the museum, we were able to navigate our way through to produce an event that was still spectacular. You were so helpful and so responsive every step of the way, you are a true professional and a great pleasure to work with.

The attendees were so appreciative to be treated to an evening in an environment that offered so many interesting exhibits. Coming from all over the world, they were intrigued with all the museum had to offer.

Susan, I am so appreciative for everything you did to help us create a successful event. I hope we have the opportunity to work together again in the future.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Vinci

Jacquelyn C. Vinci
Special Events Manager

Meeting/Exhibition Secretariat
Courtesy Associates, Inc. • 2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 710 • Washington, D.C. 20036 USA
Telephone 1-202-331-2000 • Facsimile 1-202-331-0111
E-mail: ish2000@courtesyassoc.com

The Field Museum Presents

New Discoveries Lecture

Moscow's Imperial Treasures

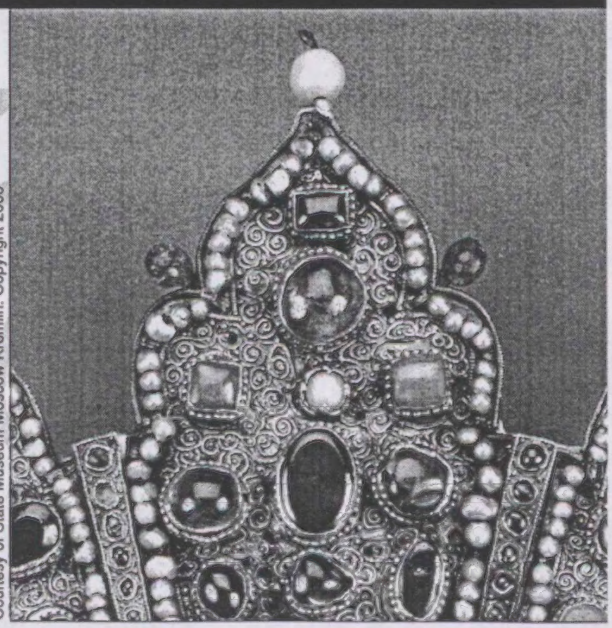
Dr. Irina Rodimtseva

Join Dr. Irina Rodimtseva, Director of The State Historical-Cultural Museum Preserve of the Moscow Kremlin and chief curator of *Kremlin Gold: 1000 Years of Russian Gems and Jewels*, as she discusses the Imperial Collections of the Moscow State Kremlin Museum and the creation of this landmark exhibition. Dr. Rodimtseva has dedicated 40 years to the Kremlin Armory Museum, and has served as Director for the past 10 years. Under her guidance, UNESCO has recognized the Kremlin Armory as a world treasure house. She has been recognized by the Russian Federation for her work in support of the arts and is a member of the prestigious Russian Academy of Art.

Dr. Rodimtseva will speak in Russian through an interpreter

Saturday,
October 21, 3 p.m.
$12; $10 students/educators;
$8 members

The Field Museum salutes the people of Chicago for their long-standing, generous support of the Museum through the Chicago Park District. This project is partially supported by a CityArts Program 4 Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



Courtesy of State Museum Moscow Kremlin: Copyright 2000

Kremlin Gold: 1000 Years Of Russian Gems And Jewels

October 21, 2000 -
March 30, 2001

See the splendor of a culture long hidden from Western eyes. The heirlooms of the tsars, jewel-encrusted crowns, spectacular Fabergé eggs and other breathtaking riches reveal fascinating stories from Russia's dramatic past. Many of these 120 masterpieces are on public display for the first time.

Collection loaned by The State Museums of the Moscow Kremlin. "Kremlin Gold" was organized for its U.S. tour by The Field Museum in partnership with The Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The Field Museum CHICAGO

The Field Museum Presents

New Discoveries Lecture Series

Celebrate the Past, Present, and Future of Field Museum Anthropology

Celebrate the glory, trials, and intrigue that have characterized Field Museum Anthropology. Dr. David Wilcox will open the festivities with the keynote presentation on the connection between the beginning of anthropology in the late 19th century and The Field Museum's role in the development of anthropology as a discipline. The presentation will be followed by comments from Jonathan Haas of The Field Museum, Elaine Bluhm Herold of the State University of New York at Buffalo, Alice Kehoe of Marquette University and Don McVicker of North Central College. The celebration will continue on October 23 with an Anthropology Department Benefit Dinner including a treasure hunt, slide show, and short presentations by Museum staff on key events and contributors to Anthropology at The Field Museum. These events are presented in collaboration with the Cultural Collections Committee.

Lecture Presentation Only

Sunday, October 22; 4:00 p.m.
$12; Students/Educators $10; Members $8
To reserve tickets call (312)665-7400

Lecture Presentation and Dinner

October 22; 4:00 p.m.
October 23; 5:30 p.m.
$100
To reserve tickets call (312)665-7132

The Field Museum

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